

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR JUL 26 1977.4

1. EGYPT-LIBYA: [REDACTED] THERE WERE NO CLASHES ALONG THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN BORDER YESTERDAY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT SADAT'S UNILATERAL ORDER FOR A CEASE-FIRE ON SUNDAY. ALTHOUGH THE LIBYANS ALMOST CERTAINLY WELCOME THE REPRIEVE, THEY HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONTINUE TO CHURN OUT BELLICOSE PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS. ARAB MEDIATORS CONTINUE TO SHUTTLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT HAVE NOT YET ARRANGED A FORMAL TRUCE.4

[REDACTED] THE DEFIANT TONE OF THE LIBYAN MEDIA--ALTHOUGH PROBABLY INTENDED PRIMARILY TO RALLY THE LIBYAN PUBLIC--SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT QADHAFI MAY NOT WANT A FORMAL TRUCE AS LONG AS THE DE FACTO CEASE-FIRE HOLDS UP. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM TIME TO ASSESS HIS MILITARY LOSSES, SEEK OUTSIDE HELP, AND PLAY UP EGYPTIAN "AGGRESSION."4

[REDACTED] IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT QADHAFI WANTS TO KEEP ALIVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES UNTIL SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO THE REGION IN EARLY AUGUST. QADHAFI MAY REASON

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Q. Now, you're not going to tell me what the

THE LIBYAN PRESS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EXPLICIT IN ITS ALLEGATIONS THAT THE US HAS COLLABORATED IN EGYPTIAN AGGRESSION. THE MEDIA HAVE ACCUSED THE US OF TRYING TO PUNISH LIBYA FOR OPPOSING US POLICY AND OF COLLABORATING WITH ISRAEL IN USING SADAT AGAINST A FELLOW ARAB.Y

IN ADDITION TO ALGERIAN, KUWAITI, AND PALESTINIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS, SEVERAL ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES HAVE CALLED FOR EMERGENCY MEETINGS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. THE GENERAL ARAB ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN THE MEDIA THROUGHOUT THE REGION CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN OVER YET ANOTHER SPLIT IN ARAB RANKS.4

ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE ADMONISHED BOTH EGYPT AND LIBYA FOR DIVERTING RESOURCES AND ATTENTION FROM THE PRIMARY STRUGGLE WITH ISRAEL. CAIRO HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN SEVERAL INSTANCES EVEN BY SOME ARAB MODERATES FOR EXERCISING ITS CLEAR MILITARY SUPERIORITY AND FAILING TO SHOW MORE PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT.

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RESEARCH DESIGN

CONCLUSIONS

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